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CONFIDENTIAL
SHANGHAI MUNICIPAL POLICE

MUNICIPAL POLICE
File No. REGIST

CONFIDENTIAL
DRAWER
REPORT

S.1, Special Branch status

Date May 7, 1937.

Subject Request by the Japanese Military Police for information regarding
the Liang You Printing & Publishing Company

Made by D.S. Larby

Forwarded by [Signature]

With reference to the attached Special Branch Report, dated 6-4-37, requesting on behalf of the Japanese Military Police, information regarding the undermentioned concern:

Liang You Printing & Publishing Company, 851 North
Szechuen Road, some details are submitted herewith.

The Liang You Printing and Publishing Company was first established in 1925 with an issued capital of \$75,000, for which sum, one Chen Chah-sing (陈嘉信) has been largely responsible. Diligent enquiries made by members of the Special Branch have failed to indicate that either the above named person or the present manager of the company, one Yue Hou-shang (余漢生), are in any way sympathizers with the Soviet Regime or connected with any organization which derives assistance, monetary or otherwise, from the U.S.S.R.

It is of interest, however, to note that during the latter part of 1933, the company in question was subjected to a series of threatening letters purporting to emanate from a body known as the "Shanghai Cinema Circles Communist Extermination Association." These communications consisted of a series of letters warning the company to cease printing and, or, publishing any literature of a radical or reactionary nature, citing as examples works of well known Chinese "red" authors.

On the 12-11-33, one of the shop's plate glass windows was smashed by some unknown person or persons and a number of pamphlets bearing a slogan printed in Chinese were scattered in the entrance way of the establishment. The translation of the slogan reads as follows:-

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*Complete
copy to
D-Hay Chi*

*Supply copy
to applicant
a copy to
quarters.
Second part
of 4 promised
unknown.
Don't x to*



*Copies sent
DBR
10/5*

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"Union of the people for the suppression of Communists."

The management at that time, while admitting that a number of the publications sold by the company were of a somewhat radical nature, pointed out that in their opinion they were fully entitled to retail such books as each copy bore a certificate of approval issued by the Nanking Government Authorities.

Attached to this report will be found the firm's 1937 catalogue of publications, ~~five~~ five of which have been purchased, examined and found to contain the following subject matter of a political or quasi political nature.

Page 49 of catalogue

Book entitled "A night in a southern country"

(南國之夜), written by Yen Wu (艾蕪).

This book contains a number of short stories including one entitled "A Night in a Southern Country." In the latter story a description is given of the miserable life followed by an old man in a certain village in Burma. The following is a translation of extracts from the story :-

(Page 4) : "On that day the old man struggles to get himself free from the grip of more than ten charcoal-coloured hands; he makes every effort to shield the doorway of the barn with his own body. Foaming at the mouth, he screams like a madman:
"It is not that I am unwilling to pay ! It is not that I am unwilling to pay !"

"The taking away of the cows and the ruthlessness of the Indian Policemen fill her (?wife of the old man) heart with grief. Large tears are in her eyes."

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(Page 6) : "The things around the old man seem to be more gloomy when the pale moonlight shines through the cocoa tree's leaves which resemble broken umbrellas, and the singing voice dies away. All that he hears now is the noise made by reptiles hiding among the grass. He suddenly arises and raising his hands to the sky, prays in a mournful tone. "The real king of Burma ! Why Why have you not arisen?"

In 1930 or 1931, Burma will surely no longer belong to Great Britain. So said a fortune teller, who happened to be in the locality.

Life is hard and miserable, and who can stop the people from talking recklessly. In the bosom of the hardened peasants there is a hope which burns like a fire which cannot be extinguished by either river water or sea waves. Nobody can extinguish this fire which will continue to spread. This fire of hope and the smoke of resistance covers all the villages, far and near. Ai ! The Real King of Burma ! Why haven't you risen up ? Why haven't you risen up ?"

.....

Another story in the same book, entitled "The Roaring Hsu Ka Tsung (咆哮的许家屯)," which describes the life of the people in a certain village in Manchukuo, contains the following passages in which "Japanese soldiers" are mentioned :-

(Page 17) : "The sounds caused by Japanese horses, Japanese shoes, and Japanese military swords are heard for

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the first time in the village, and they strike at the heart and soul of the village people. They realize that death will befall them when they hear a knock at their doors. Although the people become easier when the important figure of the village, Feng San Tai Yah, announces that the Japanese have come for the purpose of fighting the bandits, they are nevertheless fearful because never before have they seen a Japanese soldier and they have heard many rumours regarding happenings of a tragic nature.

(Page 27) : "The old woman pulls the girl into the house and closes the door, and the pair of pants which the girl is carrying is dropped on the door step. The Japanese soldiers are displeased and one of them picks up the pants with the point of a sword and suddenly puts the pants upon the head of another. The latter becomes angry and tears the pants in two. The other soldier then picks up the pants with the point of his sword and hangs it upon a nail on the woman's door. He says loudly, "I am hanging a Chinese national flag on your door." All the soldiers then burst out laughing.

(Page 29) : "The young assistant in the tailors' shop peeps out at the disappearing Japanese soldiers and says: "Hai ! These dogs !"

(Page 47) : "A drunken Japanese soldier singing a song and with his hand on his pistol, leans on the door of Butcher Tsai's house. Butcher Tsai dashes towards

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the soldier and inserts his sharp knife into his abdomen. The soldier falls down and the butcher withdraws the knife and uses it to cut off the soldier's head.

"On entering the house, Butcher Tsai sees that a short fellow in uniform is pressing his body upon Tsai's wife on a bed. Tsai becomes very angry and thrusts his knife into the man's body.

(Page 53): "Finally a drunken devil dwarf enters the house.

Butcher Tsai kicks him and then kills him with a knife. Ah Loong becomes much relieved and says, "What an excellent pig-slaughterer!"

(Page 55): "The dark street has become the scene of fighting between the oppressors and the oppressed.

The people, having been insulted, come out of their houses and revenge themselves on the dying devil dwarfs..... Finally 16 devil dwarfs are killed.

"Ah Loong becomes the leader of the heroes and tells his men that they must leave for the other side of the mountain before day break. All shout, "We will not go away! We desire revenge! We want to maintain a desperate struggle against the Japanese soldiers!"

Page 56 of catalogue

Book entitled "Bitter Kiss" (苦吻), written by Yang Yee Hai (楊慈熙).

This book contains five short stories dealing with hot-blooded young men who go to the front and battle with

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their brutal enemy. The following passages from the story "Love and Mission," are worthy of note :-

(Page 106) : "Now I know my mission ! After the cruel XX seizing the North-east, the people have been either killed or enslaved. This is a great insult. What pain this has caused those young men who have hot blood in their veins ! When I close my eyes, I see blood covered brethren in the North-east, plaintively telling me of their plight. I am a soldier, and my duty is to protect the country. I ought to sacrifice everything I have for the sake of the country. I would rather lay down my life on the battle field than see the XX butchering the people, and the country being destroyed. I will join the volunteer army in a few days.

(Page 59 of catalogue

Book entitled "Aged Soldier" (老兵) written by Shu Chun (舒群).

The leading character in this book is a soldier who has become homeless since the outbreak of the Mukden Incident. The book relates his experiences. Nothing, however, of a definite anti-Japanese nature is contained therein.

Page 60 of catalogue

Book entitled "Return" (归来) written by Lo Foong (罗丰).

This book describes how two young men in a big city in the North-East cannot tolerate the oppression and

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run away from their homes and how they decide to devote themselves to seeking a way out for their companions and themselves. The following passages are worthy of note :-

(Page 60) : "Are you and Li Tien secret agents sent here by a certain organization ⁱⁿ Manchukuo, or by the Kwantung Army, or by the Gendarmerie ?"

"I am not. I am a student. I am antagonistic to Manchukuo. I oppose XX Imperialism. I came here in order to join the Volunteer Army."

(Page 62): "Whom do you hate ?"

"X X imperialists, Chinese traitors and running dogs."

(Page 139): "A XX soldier armed with a rifle with bayonet fixed was chasing a young woman. After passing a cake shop, the woman was bayoneted in front of a closed shop. At this time, Li Tien popped out his head and saw blood gushing from wounds in the back of the fallen woman. This incident, however, did not move him considerably. The only effect upon him was a slight sting of the heart."

Page 69 of catalogue

Book entitled "War, Food, Men and Women"

(战争饮食男女) written by Chang Zeh Koh
(张若谷).

This book contains a series of short articles on the Sino-Japanese hostilities at Shanghai in 1932 and the warfare in the North, amusement, pastimes, and on the subject of love. Poems describing the emotions of a

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poetess are also included. The following passages from the article entitled "The Second Defensive Line" are of interest:-

(Page 60) : "When Magistrate Woo heard the rumours that

Japanese soldiers were advancing towards the East Gate of the City of Quinsan, he did not take the trouble to find out the truth of the rumours but fled in company with several others."

"Hearing that the magistrate of the city had fled, the people became panicky and left the place with their belongings. Almost the whole city was devoid of living souls."

"When Magistrate Woo heard that the rumours were groundless, he felt that it did not behove him to return to his post. He drowned himself in a creek."

"Such a useless coward ! How can he be a magistrate !"

"There were many slogans written on the walls. The following slogans were worthy of note :-

1. Raise our spirit so that we can fight the dwarf thief in a hand-to-hand battle !
2. Shed my hot blood in order to gain racial glory !
3. Eliminate the killing, arson loving, cruel and inhuman Japanese devils !
4. When the country is destroyed, where is your home !

Don't flee from the city !

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Now, the so-called "hot blood" and "to fight the dwarf thief in a hand-to-hand battle" people have already departed."

As far as can be judged from the meagre information in this catalogue, the remaining publications appear to be of no particular interest and consist of the usual text books, histories and general fiction. X

Assiduous enquiries by Special Branch detectives have failed to bring to light any evidence to show that the Liang Yeu Printing and Publishing Company is remotely connected with any organization which is in sympathy with the present Soviet regime.

D. S.

D. S.

D.C. (Special Branch).

NOTE - Books referred to in this report are in confidential manner

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D. C. (Special Branch) Station,
REPORT

Date April 6, 1937.

Subject: Information regarding the Japan Tea Importing Co. and the International Correspondence School requested by the Japanese Military Police.

Made by S. I. Kawasabita Forwarded by S. I. Kawasabita

Mr. S. Kawasabita of the Japanese Military Police, whose office is at 1147 Dymally Road, came to my office on the morning of April 6, and stated that he would be greatly obliged if the Municipal Police would furnish him with the following information regarding the Japan Tea Importing Co. (良友圖書公司), 50 North Suzhou Road, and the International Correspondence School (萬國函授學校, 25 Dymally Road, i:-

1. Owner and operator.
2. The amount of capital invested and its source.
3. Date of establishment of the business.
4. A list of books published and the number of each publication in circulation.
5. If the business is in any way connected with the U.S.S.R. or any organ controlled by the U.S.S.R.

I was unable to obtain any idea regarding Mr. Kawasabita's reasons for desiring the above information.

S. I.
Imamura in
JBR

S. I. Kawasabita
D. C.

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D. C. (Special Branch).

D. S. Larky
JBR